

Adapter 54 engages gas cylinder 48 and allows shielding gas to flow from gas cylinder 48 to regulator 56 immediately upon connection thereto, as will later be described in more detail with reference to Figs. ⁴~~47~~ and 9. Adapter 54 is constructed to be snugly positioned in a second portion 58 of recess 51. Regulator 56 is positioned in a third portion 60 of recess 51 and is fluidly connected to the torch of welding device 10 via a hose 61 and controls the amount of shielding gas provided to the torch during a welding operation. Optionally, during operation of a welding process, a valve (not shown) is fluidly connected between torch 18 and regulator 56 such that the flow of shielding gas from shielding gas system 47 to torch 18 is only allowed when an operator has depressed a trigger or other actuator of torch 18.

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[0032] Shroud 34 has a first boss 62 and a second boss 64 which generally flank gas cylinder 48. A strap 66 has a first end 68 pivotally connected to first boss 62 and a second end 70 constructed to engage second boss 64 of shroud 34. A latch 72 is pivotally connected to second end 70 of strap 66 and is constructed to removably engage second boss 64 of shroud 64. Strap 66 spans gas cylinder 48 and secures the gas cylinder in recess 51. Latch 72 allows an